

Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 FEA-01 ACDA-10 CIAE-00

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-07 OES-05

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

ERDA-07 /125 W

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P R 240930Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1885

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONSL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

AMEMASSY MOSCOW

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA JAPAN

CDR USARJ CAP ZAMA JAPAN

CG FIFTH AIR FORCE YOKOTA JAPAN

COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JAPAN

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CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

INR/OIL FOR EVELYN COLBERT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, JA

SUBJECT: JAPANESE NUCLEAR ATTITUDES

SUMMARY. A RECENT ASAHI NEWSPAPER PUBLIC OPINION POLL INDICATES THAT FULLY 77 PERCENT OF ALL JAPANESE ADULTS SUPPORT THE GOJ'S THREE NON-NUCLEAR PRINCIPLES--NO MANUFACTURE, NO POSSESSION, NO ENTRY OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. ASAHI HAS DRAWN THE CONCLUSION ON PAGE ONE THAT THE STRONG SENTIMENT OF THE JAPANESE PEOPLE AGAINST

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NUCLEAR WEAONS REMAINS UNAFFECTED BY THE PASSAGE OF TIME. WE

ASSUME MANY OTHERS WILL DRAW THE SAME CONCLUSION. END SUMMARY.

1. THE ASAHI NEWSPAPER JULY 23 PUBLISHED THE RESULTS OF A NATIONWIDE POLL ON JAPANESE NUCLEAR ATTITUDES. IT TOOK AS ITS UNIVERSE ALL ADULT JAPANESE (76 MILLION). FIFTEEN QUESTIONS WERE ASKED OVER TWO DAY PERIOD JUNE 19-20. THE PURPOSE OF THE POLL WAS TO GAUGE POPULAR VIEWS ON NUCLEAR ISSUES AND THE GENERAL LEVEL OF AWARENESS THIRTY YEARS AFTER NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS IN HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI. IT IS THE ONLY SURVEY OF ITS KIND WE ARE AWARE OF IN RECENT YEARS.

2. FOLLOWING ARE THE EIGHT QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS OF GREATEST INTEREST TO US:

(A) DO YOU SUPPORT OR OPPOSE JAPAN'S THREE NON-NUCLEAR PRINCIPLES--NO MANUFACTURE, NO POSSESSION, NO ENTRY OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS?

SUPPORT 77 PERCENT

OPPOSE 10 PERCENT

OTHER RESPONSE 4 PERCENT

NO RESPONSE 9 PERCENT

(OF THOSE WHO VOICED SUPPORT, RESPONSES WERE BROKEN DOWN BY AGE AND SEX. SUPPORT WAS HIGHEST AMONG MEN IN THEIR TWENTIES--88 PERCENT AND FIFTIES--80PERCENT--AND WOMEN IN THEIR TWENTIES--84 PERCENT).

(B) DO YOU BELIEVE THAT THE PRINCIPLE OF NOT PERMITTING ENTRY OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IS BEING MAINTAINED?

YES 11 PERCENT

NO 67 PERCENT

OTHER RESPONSE 4 PERCENT

NO RESPONSE 18 PERCENT

(C) DO YOU THINK IT IS NECESSARY TO RELY ON US NUCLEAR WEAPONS FOR JAPAN'S SECURITY?

NECESSARY 29 PERCENT

NOT NECESSARY 47 PERCENT

OTHER RESPONSE 7 PERCENT

NO RESPONSE 17 PERCENT

(D) AT PRESENT, WHAT MOST CONCERNS YOU REGARDING NUCLEAR MATTERS?

NUCLEAR TESTING, NUCLEAR WEAPONS COMPETITION, ETC. 17 PERCENT
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RATIFICATION OF NPT 11 PERCENT

INTRODUCTION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS BY US MILITARY 16 PERCENT

CONSTRUCTION OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS 24 PERCENT

OPERATION OF THE NUCLEAR POWERED SHIP "MUTSU" 18 PERCENT

WELFARE OF NUCLEAR BOMB VICTIMS 28 PERCENT

ANTI-NUCLEAR WEAPONS MOVEMENT 20 PERCENT

NO ANSWER 10 PERCENT

(E) DO YOU FEEL UNEASY ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF AN

ALL OUT WAR IN WHICH NUCLEAR WEAPONS ARE USED?

FEEL UNEASY 44 PERCENT
DO NOT FEEL UNEASY 44 PERCENT
OTHER RESPONSE 3 PERCENT
NO RESPONSE 8 PERCENT

(F) WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE NUCLEAR BOMBING
OF HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI ON AUGUST 6 AND 9 THIRTY YEARS AGO?

WOULD LIKE TO FORGET 6 PERCENT
CANNOT FORGET 24 PERCENT
SHOULD NOT FORGET 59 PERCENT
NO CONNECTION WITH EVENTS 6 PERCENT
OTHER RESPONSE 4 PERCENT
NO RESPONSE 1 PERCENT

(G) WHY DO YOU THINK AMERICA DROPPED ATOMIC
BOMBS ON JAPAN?

TO FORCE JAPAN TO SURRENDER QUICKLY 52 PERCENT
TO GIVE US AN ADVANTAGEOUS POSITION OVER USSR IN POSTWAR PERIOD
13 PERCENT
TO PROVE (EXPERIMENTALLY) SUCCESS OF ATOMIC BOMB 22 PERCENT
BECAUSE THEY TOOK JAPANESE LIVES LIGHTLY 4 PERCENT
OTHER RESPONSE 2 PERCENT
NO RESPONSE 7 PERCENT

(H) DO YOU FEEL ANY UNEASE CONCERNING (PEACEFUL)
USE OF NUCLEAR POWER SUCH AS NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS OR NUCLEAR
POWERED SHIPS WHICH JAPAN IS PROMOTING NOW?

FEEL UNEASY 48 PERCENT
DO NOT FEEL UNEASY 37 PERCENT
OTHER RESPONSE 5 PERCENT
NO RESPONSE 10 PERCENT.

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3. COMMENT. ON THE BASIS OF THIS POLL, THE ASAHI DREW
THE PAGE ONE CONCLUSION THAT THE STRONG SENTIMENT OF THE JAP-
ANESE PEOPLE AGAINST NUCLEAR WEAPONS REMAINS UNAFFECTED BY THE
PASSAGE OF (THIRTY YEARS) TIME. WE BELIEVE THAT MANY OTHERS
READING THE POLL RESULTS AND THE ASAHI COMMENTARY WILL COME TO
THE SAME CONCLUSION. WE WILL PURSUE THIS MATTER FURTHER.
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